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OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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SUMNER &
CANNON, INC.

July 22, 2002

Ms. Sara Kyle, Chairman
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0505

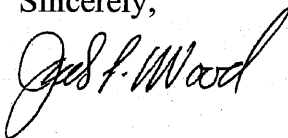
Dear Ms. Kyle:

I am writing in support of BellSouth being approved to provide long-distance service to Tennessee consumers. In recent years, our firm has used WorldCom and currently Cable and Wireless as our long-distance supplier. It appears that we may need to seek another long-distance carrier very soon.

It is my understanding that BellSouth has complied with all requirements to open its local market to long-distance service. We need more options than are now available, and BellSouth should be allowed to compete. We are very concerned with the potential increase in cost for long-distance service due to the dropping out of some of the major suppliers. BellSouth's being allowed to complete should result in lower overall phone costs to our firm, as well as to many others.

With all of the companies being allowed to compete with BellSouth for local services, it appears only fair to allow BellSouth to compete in the long-distance arena. I hope that the Tennessee Regulatory Authority will approve this needed competition.

Sincerely,



Jack L. Wood
Chairman

dmm:ljlw.mis

cc: Mr. Ron Jones, Director
Mr. Pat Miller, Director
Ms. Deborah Taylor Tate, Director

RECEIVED

JUL 24 2002

SARA KYLE, COMMISSIONER
TN PUBLIC SERVICE COMM.